

REMARKS

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees, please enter this amendment. The amendment to claim 1 is fully supported by the original application as filed. No new matter has been added.

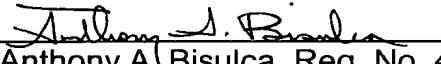
Basis for the amendment of claim 1, may be found in the tables of examples 1 through 7 of the specification as originally filed (pages 7 through 13). Specifically, the cellulose molecule can be substituted at three different positions. Each position can only be substituted with one alkyl-group or with one sulfoalkyl-group. As a consequence thereof, these substituents are defined as "degree of substitution (DS)". In contrast to the alkyl- and sulfoalkyl-group, each position can be substituted with more than one hydroxyalkyl-group, because these groups can lead to chains containing one or more alkoxy-groups. Therefore, the hydroxyalkyl-groups are defined as "molar substitution (MS)". The two definitions "degree of substitution" and "molar substitution" are well known to a person of ordinary skill in the chemical arts. As can be seen especially from table 1, the examples according to the present invention have a molar substitution of the hydroxyalkyl-group, i.e. hydroxyethyl-group, of greater than 2.3.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 03-2060.

Attached herewith is a separate sheet entitled "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" showing all changes made to the specification and claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9 and 10.

Amend claims 1 as follows:

-- 1. (Once Amended) A water-soluble ionic cellulose ether comprising a hydroxyalkylcellulose having [from the group of hydroxyalkylcelluloses which is substituted by] on average from 0.001 to 1.0 alkyl group per anhydroglucose unit substitutions and [which carries] from 0.01 to 0.1 sulfoalkyl group per anhydroglucose unit, wherein the degree of hydroxyalkylation is greater than 2.3.--.

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